

# Goals and Objectives

With Year 2 Activities and Investments



## Goal 1, Empowering People

Vermonters with developmental disabilities and their family caregivers are empowered to make personally meaningful choices about their services, education, employment, guardianship status, healthcare, living situation, and relationships.

### Objective 1.1, Leadership Development

The Council will support self-advocates and family members to become leaders in the disability rights movement.

*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Continue to plan and support the annual Vermont Leadership Training Series.
- Host an annual Summer Summit for graduates of the Leadership Series
- Support peers to teach self-advocates about leadership and advocacy.

### Objective 1.2, Support for Self-Advocacy

The VTDDC will support the expansion and long-term sustainability of the self-advocacy movement in Vermont.

*In Year 2, through a grant to Green Mountain Self-Advocates, the Council will...*

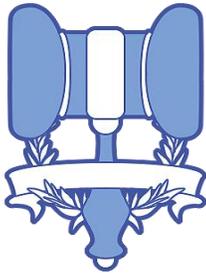
- Provide grant support to a statewide self-advocacy organization to add new local groups as needed, conduct board training, host at least one Youth Summit, and reach out to culturally diverse communities.
- Provide a sponsorship to support GMSA's statewide conference, "Voices and Choices."



## Objective 1.3, Guardianship

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Working with community partners, the VTDDC will promote a range of alternatives to full guardianship, including supported decision-making.



*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Sustain the work of 4 Youth Ambassadors who are prepared to talk with peers about alternatives to full guardianship.
- Embed supported decision-making and other alternatives to guardianship in Vermont policies, systems of care, procedures, and forms.
- Continue to engage in a national community of practice dedicated to promoting supported decision-making.
- Develop, brand, and implement a Campaign to promote supported decision making and other alternatives to guardianship.
- Providing information sessions for targeted audiences including family caregivers, medical professionals, developmental disabilities services agency staff, and school special education and transition services teams.

## Objective 1.4, Peer Support

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The Council will ensure that trained peers are available to support those who need help with their Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and other supports.

*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Support GMSA in sponsoring an advanced-level training for peers who are preparing to become paid peer support providers
- Advocate for paid peers who are employed to assist people receiving HCBS with their service plans and supports.
- Continue to fund Vermont parents to attend introductory and advanced training through the Council for Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA).
- Convene the Vermont graduates of COPAA.

## Objective 1.5, Family Caregivers of Adults

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The Council will support and connect family caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities.



*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Initiate the development of an independent, curated website designed to provide comprehensive information about adult services. Create an editorial board for the website.
- Establish a safe, online means for family caregivers of adults to contact one another.

## Goal 2, Gaps in Services



Working with community partners, the Council will address three (3) gaps in critical services for people with developmental disabilities and their family members.

## Objective 2.1, Universal Design

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Working with community partners, the Council will create plain language health information and advocate for accessible spaces and recreation in order to improve the health and wellness of individuals with developmental disabilities.



*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Through a Health Equity Grant, create plain language health information for adults with developmental disabilities.
- Train healthcare providers about how to communicate effectively with patients who have developmental disabilities.
- Continue to promote Competent Care for Kids, a program for the vaccination of children with disabilities that is designed to reduce the stress associated with the experience.
- Support expanding recreational opportunities for youth and adults with developmental disabilities.

## Objective 2.2, Housing

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**Working with community partners, the Council will develop and promote housing options for adults with developmental disabilities. These living options must be affordable, foster independence, ensure necessary support, and assist in the development of friendships and other community connections.**



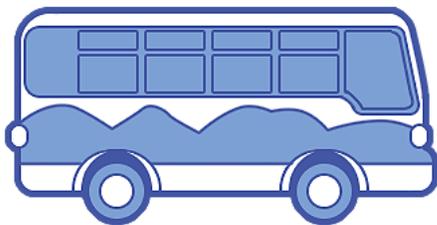
*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Support a study of housing needs for adults with I/DD and successful models from other states that meet those needs.
- Advocate for a change in housing policy so that self-advocates who have Section 8 vouchers can share housing.
- Continue to provide technical assistance to self-advocates and family members who are advocating for alternative housing models.

## Objective 2.3, Transportation

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**Working with community partners, the Council will develop and promote more affordable, convenient, and flexible transportation options for people with developmental disabilities.**



*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Build relationships with key stakeholders and experts familiar with transportation issues.
- Monitor the Transportation Advisory Committee for Elders and People with Disabilities and legislative committees of jurisdiction.
- Advocate that a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds for HCBS Enhancement be used to support expanded transportation for people using HCBS.



## **GOAL 3, Addressing the Needs of an Underserved Group**

Individuals with complex disabilities and/or substantial support needs have equitable access to, and appropriate supports to realize, opportunities for employment, social engagement, and personal development.

### **Objective 3.1, Customized Employment**

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Working with community partners, the Council will develop and promote customized, integrated employment opportunities for individuals with complex disabilities and/or substantial support needs.



*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Create and convene a community of practice focused on customized, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially for individuals with complex disabilities.
- Continue to promote best practices in customized employment and micro-enterprise for adults with I/DD.

### **Objective 3.2, Adult Services**

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Working with community partners, the Council will develop and promote opportunities for adults with complex disabilities and/or substantial support needs to increase social engagement and independence.

*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Create and convene a community of practice focused on improving adult services for adults with complex needs.
- Issue a request for proposals for SEEDS grants, seeking small, innovative projects that support the skill development of adults with complex disabilities.



## Goal 4, Systems Change

Vermont disability policies and practices promote self-determination, full community inclusion, and equitable access to high quality services and supports, including special education.

### Objective 4.1, Raise Awareness

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The VTDDC will conduct outreach and public awareness campaigns that change perceptions about the abilities and contributions of people with developmental and other disabilities.



*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- In collaboration with CDCI, identify 1-5 questions to add to the UVM Rural Studies annual survey.
- Add 5 Story Portraits/year.
- Host art show at disability conferences.
- Hosts at least 1 Storytelling Evening.
- Support self-advocates speak to at least 3 professional or para-professional groups. (See Obj. 1.2).

### Objective 4.2, Ongoing Policy Advocacy

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The VTDDC will monitor state and federal legislation and policy, educating decision-makers and building strategic partnerships as needed. Working through its Policy Committee, the VTDDC will be able to address issue that were not foreseen or that have grown to be a priority.

*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Work with the Policy Committee to identify and vet potential platform items for a December vote by Council.
- Meet with legislators, testify, and support people to testify, as needed.
- Visit Congressional Delegation at least 1x/year with members.
- Attend NACDD policy-related calls.
- Monitor 7-10 committees; provide public comment.
- With Community Partners, plan an impactful event for Disability Awareness



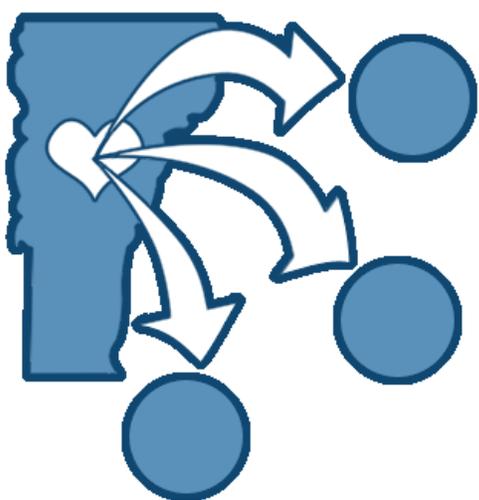
Day that promotes the broad agenda of the disability community

- Support member & others to testify live or via video, sharing their lived experience as a person with a disability or a family member.
- Create short videos for legislators showing members and others from the disability community weighing in on specific legislation.

## Objective 4.3, System of Care

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The VTDDC will advocate that Vermont adequately fund Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS). Vermont will have stable, strong, and equitable systems that protect the right to person-centered planning, emphasize prevention over crisis care, and provide individualized, flexible supports rather than adhering to rigid service categories.



*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Educate lawmakers about the need for adequate base funding and regular, predictable COLAs for DDSD.
- Advocate strongly that VT implement its Plan of Correction addressing conflicts of interest in case management.
- Advocate that individuals and their family caregivers have adequate, individualized budgets that they can easily track and manage.
- Work with Members to outline a position regarding paying parents as providers.
- Advocate that the State add additional funding priorities to its DD System of Care.
- Monitor Vermont's transition to independent assessment using the SIS-A.
- Advocate for new housing models.
- Advocate for crisis prevention and wellness support.
- Seek funding to support regional communities of practice (CoP) centered on improving cultural and linguistic

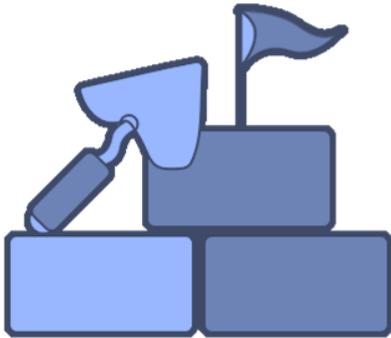
competence in the delivery of developmental disabilities services.

- Align HCBS services across programs.

## Objective 4.4, Direct Support Workforce

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The VTDDC will advocate for the professionalization and stabilization of the direct care workforce.



*In Year 2, the Council will...*

- Advocate that the State strengthen training requirements for direct care workers, including home providers, and the State budget support that training.
- Advocate annually that the VT State budget adequately compensate direct care workers.
- Co-sponsor Direct Support Professionals Appreciation Day (Sept. 2022)